

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed February 28, 2003, the Examiner's comments and cited art have been studied.

Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 17 as depicted above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2-5, 8-11, 14, 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Freimanis et al, U.S. Patent No. 4,056,691 ("Freimanis"). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 9 and 17. Consequently, in view of the below, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

First, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9 and 17 to clarify his claimed subject matter. As seen in the amended claims, Applicant has clarified where his claimed subject matter resides. As illustrated in Applicant's Figure 2, Applicant's interface 202 is located in the Customer Premise Equipment 200. Thus, the interface 200 is independent of the load exhibited by a Central Office and the subscriber loop.

The Office Action characterizes Freimanis' interface 120 as providing a constant current to a CPE (Office Action, page 2). However even if the Office Action's characterization is true, as stated in Applicant's amended claims, Applicant's interface 202 is located within the CPE 200. (See Applicant's Figure 2).

As clearly stated in Freimanis: "The invention relates to a communication line interface circuit **for use in a switching office** and more particularly relates to a telephone line interface circuit adapted to detect open and closed circuit conditions of the line." (Col 1, lines 12-16) (Emphasis added.) Consequently, Freimanis does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed subject matter. Furthermore, due to the specific limitations of Freimanis, Freimanis would not have rendered obvious Applicant's claimed subject. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections for independent claims 1, 9 and 17. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the

rejections for all claims dependent upon claims 1, 9 and 17, namely, 2-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18 and 20.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 6, 12, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freimanis in view of Seazholtz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,706) ("Seazholtz"). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot in view of the amendment to independent claims 1, 9 and 17 and the arguments made above. Therefore, since Freimanis does not teach, suggest or render obvious Applicant's claimed subject matter of independent claims 1, 9 and 17, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections to claims 2, 6, 12, 15 and 19.

Similarly, since claims 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) utilizing Freimanis, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections in view of the arguments made above.

Drawing Objections

Applicant acknowledges the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review of Applicant's informal drawing. Upon issuance of a Notice of Allowance, Applicant will timely submit formal drawings with corrections as identified in the Draftsperson's Notice.

CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record, but not specifically cited, is not believed to disclose any significant information that is not sufficiently discussed in this Response.

It is respectfully submitted that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed and that all claims as amended and pending following entry of this Response are now allowable and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims as amended, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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